

The Project manager's future vision

In the second part the project manager interview, 'project manager's' future vision is constructed.

As we used a social network map and a complementary synthesis writing to elicit project manager's present vision, the same tools will be used here to help describe the project manager's vision about the future. The social network map will be particularly useful for 'project managers' and 'consultant' to discuss about the future and make the views of the future explicit.

Synthesis writing

During their meeting, the 'consultant' will conduct an interview with the project manager on how he/she sees the future.

To start with, it could be useful to explain what we call a vision about the future:

basically, it describes how the project managers imagines how the project will look like when successfully finished. Using a specific date can be very helpful: how do you think the project will look like in 2015?

The following list of questions can assist the consultant in his/ her interview:

- Who will be important actors for the project in 2015? Who can make the project a success or block it?
- What factors will be important for the successful operation of the technology in 2015?
- What will be the main strength and weaknesses of the project in 2015?
- Who will be cooperating with the project in 2015?
- Who do you think will act against the project? Can you imagine why?
- What are the main risks factors that could disrupt the continuity of the project until 2015?

- What should change to overcome these risks? Who could help you?

Creating a vision title

Another task of the meeting is to decide upon a name for the project manager's vision of the future.

When the future network has been completed and the consultant has sufficient information for writing the future synthesis, the consultant and project manager can think of a vision title. The vision title should make clear what the most important element of the vision is. It can be helpful to imagine a newspaper article in 2015, and think of a title for this article. Therefore, the title should be a 'newspaper' style title that represents the project manager vision in a short and catchy way. The aim is to stimulate the project manager or stakeholder to highlight the most important element in the vision. It also enables the consultant to start the stakeholder meeting in Step 5.

Future social network

A social network map representing the future can be constructed in a joint effort of consultant and project manager. It can be very helpful to do this directly on a laptop connected to a beamer.

One good starting point is to comment the present social network map. The consultant and project managers could review its dimensions and devise what will be different in 2015. This way, changes can be made straight away on the map. Project managers comments are collected by the consultant for finalising/completing the different documents making project manager's 'future vision'.